

**Patent Claims**

1. A method for producing a ring traveler (10) for ring spinning or ring twisting machines, which has a  
5 core (20) consisting of iron material, wherein the core (20) or parts thereof are subjected to a nitriding treatment, during which heat energy and a nitriding agent as active medium are supplied to the core (20).
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
10 core (20) is heated to a temperature in the range of 450°C - 600°C, preferably to a temperature close to 550°C.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the  
15 core (20) is maintained in said temperature range for 3 - 60 hours, preferably for about 24 hours.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the nitriding agent is supplied in the form of a gas preferably consisting of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{N}_2$  components, a nitrogen-enriched liquid or a nitrogen-enriched plasma.
- 20 5. The method as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein the active medium has, in addition to the nitrogen components, sulfur components and/or carbon components.
6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 - 5,  
25 wherein the core (20) is polished before and/or after the nitriding treatment and/or is oxidized after the nitriding treatment.
7. A ring traveler (10) for ring spinning or ring twisting machines, with a core (20) consisting of iron  
30 material, wherein at least one mechanically stressed part of the core (20), in particular the running surface for the thread and/or the surface running on the ring, has a nitrided edge layer (23; 24).
8. A ring traveler (10) as claimed in claim 7,  
35 wherein the edge layer (23; 24) consists of a connecting layer (23) without an additional diffusion layer (24), of a connecting layer (23) with an additional diffusion layer (24) or only of a diffusion layer (24).

9. The ring traveler (10) as claimed in claim 8, wherein the connecting layer (23) has a thickness of  $0.1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  -  $30\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and the diffusion layer (24) a thickness of  $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  -  $2000\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , preferably a connecting layer (23) with a thickness of  $8\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  -  $12\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and a diffusion layer (24) with a thickness of  $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  -  $200\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  being provided.

10. The ring traveler (10) as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the connecting layer (23), if appropriate also the diffusion layer (24), contain sulfur components and/or carbon components.

11. The ring traveler (10) as claimed in one of claims 7 - 10, wherein the surface (22) of the core (20) is polished and/or is provided with an oxide layer.

12. The ring traveler (10) as claimed in one of claims 7 - 11, wherein the surface (22) of the core (20) is black, blue, yellow or white, preferably shiny.

13. The ring traveler (10) as claimed in one of claims 7 - 12, wherein the basic material (21) of the core (20) is a heat-treated and/or an unalloyed or low-alloy steel, preferably a nitriding steel.

14. The ring traveler (10) as claimed in claim 13, wherein the basic material (21) of the core (20) preferably contains nitride-forming elements, such as chromium, vanadium, aluminum, molybdenum, manganese and/or nickel.